## VI Economic Development Authority to participate in local business forum with the St. Croix Economic Development Initiative

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CHAROLOTTE AMALIE, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands – March 7, 2013 - Percival E. Clouden, Chief Executive Officer of the V.I. Economic Development Authority (VIEDA), announced today that representatives from the VIEDA will participate in the "St. Croix Economic Development Initiative (SEDI) Business Forum and Networking Event" on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 5:30PM at the Pier 69 Restaurant and Courtyard located on Strand Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix.

During this forum, officials from the VIEDA's Economic Development Commission (EDC) will deliver a presentation on the Eligible Virgin Islands Suppliers Program to local business owners in the Territory. Attendees will also have the opportunity learn about other programs under the VIEDA such as the Enterprise Zone Commission, Small Business Development Agency and the Government Development Bank.

After the forum, panelists and attendees will participate in a question and answer segment, and business owners will network together at the event to exchange ideas and information.

The VIEDA's Economic Development Commission and the Enterprise Zone Commission encourage local suppliers of goods and services to apply to be certified as an Eligible Virgin Islands Supplier.

An eligible supplier is a licensed Virgin Islands business that has been in operation for at least one year and meets other requirements of the Economic Development Program. Local businesses / suppliers are certified by the EDC to be afforded the opportunity to participate in the local procurement activities of beneficiaries of the Economic Development Commission and Enterprise Zone Commission.

SEDI Business Forums are business networking events that are held every second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Pier 69 Restaurant and Courtyard.

To learn more about the various programs under the V.I. Economic Development Authority, contact the VIEDA's office at 714.1700 on St. Thomas or 773.6499 on St. Croix. For more information on the St. Croix Economic Development Initiative (SEDI), contact Mr. Anthony Weeks at 1.914.574.1213 or at <a href="mailto:aweeks@kalalloo.com">aweeks@kalalloo.com</a>.

VIEDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender

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